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From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

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## Opening Reception At Rauschenberg Gallery

Florida SouthWestern State College will open the exhibit Ann Hamilton: Phora at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery, with a public reception on Friday, January 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Occupying the walls (nearly floor-to-ceiling) with more than 120 unique stills captured by the artist from close-up video taken of the mouths of carved medieval figures at the Museum of National Antiquities in Stockholm, the silent, non-sentient but color-saturated facial features appear reanimated by this immersive installation of digital images.

Initially conceived for the architectural context of La Maison Rouge in Paris, France, and inspired by two highly-symbolic locales: the Bastille (as the voice of civic demonstration) and the Bastille Opera (as a demonstrative public voice), the Ann Hamilton: Phora exhibit explores the origins of public speaking from the first forums to ongoing political debate, and is opening on the day of the U.S. Presidential Inauguration.

Presented for the first time with The First Line (Sounds for Drawing), an experimental drawing project and participatory installation by Ann Hamilton and Andrew Deutsch, this component encourages visitors to take a hands-on role by contributing their own drawing in response to audio tracks played through a headset while a newly-commissioned composition featuring micro-loops of the artist's voice is played aloud in the gallery to provide further inspiration and a soundtrack both for The First Line and Phora.

Hamilton was recipient of the prestigious MacArthur Genius Award Fellowship and a NEA National Medal of Arts Award (presented at the White House by President Barack Obama in 2015). She has been the subject of solo exhibitions and large-scale installations at institutions including The Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York City, the Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC and the Musée d'art Contemporain in Lyon, France.

The Robert Rauschenberg Gallery is located on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College, 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, call 489-9313 or visit [www.RauschenbergGallery.com](http://www.RauschenbergGallery.com) ✪